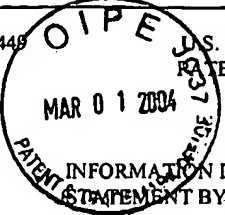


Form PTO-1449 <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419)		SERIAL NO. 10/720,510	
APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al.					
FILING DATE November 24, 2003				GROUP ART UNIT - Unknown	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
MM	668,879	02/1901	Miller				
	1,213,001	01/1917	Philips				
	1,248,492	12/1917	Hill				
	2,548,602	04/1951	Greenburg				
	3,509,883	11/1967	Dibelius				
	3,545,443	12/1970	Ansari				
	3,742,958	07/1973	Rundles				
	3,788,318	01/1974	Kim et al.				
	3,789,852	02/1974	Kim et al.				
	3,902,492	09/1975	Greenhalgh				
	4,018,230	04/1977	Ochiai et al.				
	4,141,364	02/1979	Schultze				
	4,411,655	10/1983	Schreck				
	4,447,237	05/1984	Frisch et al.				
	4,479,497	10/1984	Fogarty et al.				
	4,581,025	04/1986	Timmermans				
	4,589,868	05/1986	Dretler				
	4,601,713	07/1986	Fuqua				
	4,610,688	09/1986	Silvestrini et al.				
	4,650,466	03/1987	Luther				
4,710,181	12/1987	Fuqua					
4,716,901	01/1988	Jackson et al.					
4,738,666	04/1988	Fuqua					
↓	4,739,762	04/1988	Palmaz				

EXAMINER /Michael Mendoza/	DATE CONSIDERED 03/08/2007
----------------------------	----------------------------

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419)		SERIAL NO. 10/720,510	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al.			
				FILING DATE November 24, 2003		GROUP ART UNIT Unknown	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
MM		4,753,636	06/1988	Free			
		4,762,128	08/1988	Rosenbluth			
		4,772,266	09/1988	Groshong			
		4,798,193	01/1989	Giesy et al.			
		4,846,791	07/1989	Hattler et al.			
		4,865,593	09/1989	Ogawa et al.			
		4,869,717	09/1989	Adair			
		4,888,000	12/1989	McQuilkin et al.			
		4,896,669	01/1990	Bhate et al.			
		4,899,729	02/1990	Gill et al.			
		4,921,479	05/1990	Grayzel			
		4,941,874	07/1990	Sandow et al.			
		4,954,126	09/1990	Wallsten			
		4,955,895	09/1990	Sugiyama et al.			
		4,972,827	11/1990	Kishi et al.			
		4,986,830	01/1991	Owens et al.			
		5,021,241	06/1991	Yamahira et al.			
		5,045,056	09/19/91	Bwhl			
		5,078,736	01/1992	Behl			
		5,084,057	01/1992	Green et al.			
		5,100,388	03/1992	Behl et al.			
		5,100,420	03/1992	Green et al.			
		5,104,382	04/1992	Brinkerhoff et al.			
		5,112,304	05/1992	Barlow et al.			

EXAMINER /Michael Mendoza/	DATE CONSIDERED 03/08/2007
----------------------------	----------------------------

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419)	SERIAL NO. 10/720,510
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al.	
		FILING DATE November 24, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
MM	5,116,318	05/1992	Hillstead			
	5,122,122	06/1992	Allgood			
	5,139,511	08/1992	Gill et al.			
	5,158,545	10/1992	Trudell et al.			
	5,183,464	02/1993	Dubrul et al.			
	5,188,602	02/1993	Nichols			
	5,201,756	04/1993	Horzewski et al.			
	5,222,938	06/1993	Behl			
	5,222,971	06/1993	Willard et al.			
	5,234,425	08/1993	Fogarty et al.			
	5,246,424	09/1993	Wilk			
	5,250,025	10/1993	Sosnowski et al.			
	5,250,033	10/1993	Evans et al.			
	5,275,611	01/1994	Behl			
	5,279,554	01/1994	Turley			
	5,290,276	03/1994	Sewell, Jr.			
	5,304,119	04/1994	Balaban et al.			
	5,312,360	05/1994	Behl			
	5,316,360	05/1994	Feikema			
	5,320,611	06/1994	Bonutti et al.			
	5,383,859	01/1995	Sewell, Jr.			
	5,392,766	02/1995	Masterson et al.			
	5,403,278	04/1995	Ernst et al.			
✓	5,407,430	04/1995	Peters			

EXAMINER

/Michael Mendoza/

DATE CONSIDERED

03/08/2007

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419)		SERIAL NO. 10/720,510	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al.			
				FILING DATE November 24, 2003		GROUP ART UNIT Unknown	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
MM		6,293,909	09/2001	Chu et al.			
		6,306,124	10/2001	Jones et al.			
		6,325,789	12/2001	Janzen et al.			
		6,325,812	12/20/01	Dubrul et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
MM		0 177 177	04/1986	Europe				
		2199247	07/1988	Great Britain				
		0 385 920	09/1990	Europe				
		WO 92/19312	11/1992	WIPO				
		WO 94/20026	09/1994	WIPO				
		WO 95/30374	11/1995	WIPO				
		WO 98 19730 A	05/1998	WIPO				
		DE 198 14 576A	10/1999	Germany				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
EXAMINER INITIAL			Product Brochure ENDOMED™, Cooper Surgical, Inc. (1992) (2 pages)
			Product Brochure BLUNTPORT, Auto Suture Company, a division of United States Surgical Corporation (1992) (1 page)
MM			Product Brochure DEXIDE® Inc., Dexide, Inc. (1992) (1 page)
			Product Brochure EXPANDO®, Bentley Harris (1988, 1990, 1991) (12 pages)

EXAMINER <div style="text-align: center;">/Michael Mendoza/</div>	DATE CONSIDERED <div style="text-align: center;">03/08/2007</div>
--	--

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><i>Complete if Known</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Application Number</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">10/720,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Filing Date</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">November 24, 2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">First Named Inventor</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Richard D. Gresham, et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Art Unit</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3739</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Examiner Name</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Attorney Docket Number</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2877</td> </tr> </table>	<i>Complete if Known</i>		Application Number	10/720,510	Filing Date	November 24, 2003	First Named Inventor	Richard D. Gresham, et al.	Art Unit	3739	Examiner Name	Unknown	Attorney Docket Number	2877
<i>Complete if Known</i>															
Application Number	10/720,510														
Filing Date	November 24, 2003														
First Named Inventor	Richard D. Gresham, et al.														
Art Unit	3739														
Examiner Name	Unknown														
Attorney Docket Number	2877														

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature	/Michael Mendoza/	Date Considered	03/08/2007
-----------------------	-------------------	--------------------	------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/720,510
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	November 24, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Richard D. Gresham, et al.
		Art Unit	3739
		Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	2877

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. 1	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
MM		US- 5,827,319	10/27/1998	Carlson, et al.	
MM		US- 6,162,236	12/19/2000	Osada	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code ³	-Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	/Michael Mendoza/	Date Considered	03/08/2007
-------------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.